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that dates are ripened even when the tree is so young that the clusters may easily be reached from the ground, but the sharp bristling leaves would most effectually prevent any one from walking *under* the tree. In Egypt the heavy clusters hang down from the base of the leaves, and even in mature trees may be picked by a man on horse-back. The fruit ripens separately on the cluster, and the process goes on for some weeks. The date-palm is by no means a shade tree, and not a pleasant tree to walk under, as the dead and persistent leaves hang and project at various angles, and even where these are trimmed away, the stem remains rough and spiny.—WM. T. BRIGHAM.

J. S., New Albany, Ind.—Your specimen is a portion of a growth of some sort of suberose, or corky fungus, such as grows out of the dead or living, but old and hard bark of living trees. It consists, as you will find on macerating a bit of it, of a compact mass of fibres or threads once alive, and which is called 'mycelium,' and this particular kind can be found frequently between the layers of the timber of the solid trunk, and by its presence the wood is finally destroyed. It is known to botanists as *Racodium*. *Xylostroma* of Persoon, the first word signifying "like a rag," the second "woody-bed," or bed in the wood. It has another name given it by Tode, *Xylostroma giganteum*, or the "great woody bed," and may be found in the timber of the oak, beech, etc., both in this country and in Europe. There are also other species of *Racodium*, some of which from resemblance, are called "Mouseskin," and the like names.—J. L. R.

CORRECTIONS.—Mr. Dall desires us to correct his statement in the March NATURALIST that "no snake of the genus *Elaps* is poisonous," as some of the species are poisonous.

Prof. S. D. Cope writes us that the dislocation in the jaw of the ally of mosasaurus (mentioned on page 55) is normal, and not the result of an accident,—our own inferences were incorrect.—EDS.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED.

*Practical Floriculture; A Guide to the Successive Cultivation of Florist's Plants, for the Amateur and Professional Florist.* By P. Henderson. Illustrated. New York: Orange Judd & Co. Price \$1.50.

*Library of Education. Some thoughts concerning Education.* By John Locke. New York: J. W. Schermerhorn & Co. 1869. 32mo, pp. 192. 15 cents.

*The Pampas and Andes. A Thousand Miles' Walk across South America.* By N. A. Bishop. Boston: Lea & Shepard. 1869. 12mo, pp. 310.

*The Record of Zoological Literature, 1867.* Vol. IV. Edited by A. C. L. Günther. London, 1868. John Van Voorst. 8vo, pp. 678.

*Scientific Opinion* (Weekly) for January, 1869. London.

*Journal for the Popular Diffusion of Natural Science.* Edited by C. Fogh, C. F. Lütken, and Eug. Warming. Series iii. Vol. I, Part 1. Copenhagen, 1869. 8vo.

*Archiv für Anthropologie.* Vol. II, Part 3. Braunschweig, 1868. 4to.

*Cosmos* (Weekly). December 19—February 6, 1869. Paris. 8vo.

*Canadian Naturalist and Geologist.* Second series. Vol. III, Nos. 1-4.

*The Field.* December 19—February 20. London.

*Journal of Travel and Natural History.* Vol. I, No. 4. London. 8vo.

*Land and Water.* November 28—February 6.

*Popular Science Review.* January, 1869. London.

*Quarterly Journal of Science.* January, 1869. London.

*American Bee Journal.* February, March, 1869. Washington, D. C. \$2.00 a year.

*Bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers.* Jan., 1869. Boston. 8vo.

*Le Naturaliste Canadien, Bulletin des Recherches, Observations et Decouvertes se rapportant a l'Histoire Naturelle du Canada.* Tom. I, No. 2. Janvier 3, February, 1869. 8vo, pp. 25. \$2.00 a year.

*Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries for the year ending January 1, 1869.* Boston, 1869. 8vo, pp. 71.

*The Canadian Entomologist.* February 15. Vol. I, No. 7. Toronto.

*The American Entomologist.* March, 1869. St. Louis: R. P. Studley & Co. \$1.00 a year.

*One Thousand Objects for the Microscope.* By M. C. Cooke. With five hundred figures. London, 1869. 12mo. Price \$1.00.